dichotomous, with a flower stalk in the fork. Stipules and bractes linear, dilated at base. Peduncles round, hairy, swelling at base, generally two flowered. Calyx of five oblong, ribbed, mucronated leaves, with the parts, which are outermost in the bud, hairy. Petals five, obovate, not emarginate, of a light purple colour, which is deeper when the plant grows in the shade, marked with green at the base. Stamens ten, erect or curving outward, the alternate ones a little longer, with nectariferous glands at the base; filaments dilated and united together at base; anthers oblong, deciduous, so that the number frequently appears less than ten. Germ ovate; style straight, as long as the stamens; stigmas five, at first erect, afterwards recurved. Capsule five seeded, surmounted by a long straight beak, from the sides of which when ripe are separated five thin, flat awns, which curl up, having cast off the seed contained in the cell at the base of each.

The root of the Geranium, which is the part to be used in medicine, is internally of a green colour, and when dry is exceedingly brittle and easily reduced to powder. It is one of the most powerful astringents we possess, and from its decided properties, as well as the ease of procuring it, it may well supersede in medicine many foreign ar-

ticles of its class which are consumed among us. The experiments, which I have made upon this root, have been principally directed to the examination of its astringent qualities.

A drachm of the powdered root was steeped in two ounces of cold water and the infusion filtrated. Successive portions of water were added until the liquid came off colourless and tasteless. The collected infusion had a pale greenish colour, and a styptic, austere taste. It did not redden vegetable blues.

To half this infusion was added a drachm of gelatin in solution. The liquor instantly became of a milky whiteness, and a copious white precipitate was thrown down. This precipitate was dried and assumed a semi-transparent, horny appearance. Its weight was eleven grains.

A drachm of kino treated in the same manner was rendered turbid, but gave a very scanty precipitate with the gelatin.

To portions of the same infusions was added a solution of the muriate of tin. In both of them a greenish precipitate was formed, but that of the Geranium was much the most immediate and abundant.

The sulphate of iron struck a dark purple colour with the infusion of Geranium. The com-

JACOB BIGELOW *American Medical Botany* BOSTON, 1817-1820 CARY GRAPHIC ARTS COLLECTION, ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Octavo